**The Squad's Omar urges Biden administration to support Israel's referral to ICC**

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Progressive Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) told Qatar’s Al-Araby TV last week that she implored the Biden administration to support Israel's referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

“The US should not delegitimize the ICC and the things it must do,” she said, “it is shocking that the legitimacy of the ICC is something that is being questioned.” The court’s ability to “investigate, probe and render justice” was being undermined in the United States, she added.­

The ICC’s pre-trial chamber ruled in a 2-1 decision on February 5 that the court’s jurisdiction extends to “the territories occupied by Israel since 1967,” meaning the West Bank, including east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, according to the Jewish News Syndicate (JNS).

The decision means that the ICC can now launch an investigation into alleged Israeli war crimes in each of these areas. The ruling drew sharp and immediate criticism, both in Israel and the United States, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu calling it “pure antisemitism,” while the US State Department issued a formal objection.

Neither Israel, nor the United States is a signatory of the Rome Statute that established the court.

When asked about the future of the US embassy in Jerusalem, Omar implied that she and her progressive colleagues were playing a long strategic game. “It doesn’t currently seem like a lot will be changed, but there will be an opportunity for us to push for the United States to stand for its values and principles.”

She also approved of the Biden administration's removal of the "terrorist" designation from the Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen, a move that seems precipitate at best considering the massive uptick in violence over the last two weeks or so as they push to take Marib, the internationally recognized government's last northern stronghold.

At the outgoing Israeli government's first cabinet meeting in May, Netanyahu identified the potential ICC probe as a "rare strategic threat" to the country.